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Timor Leste Opens Market for U.S. Poultry

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

Poultry and Products

Approved By:

Ali Abdi

Prepared By:

Jonn Slette and Titi Rahayu

Report Highlights:

Cooperative efforts by the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), U.S. Embassy Dili, and FAS Jakarta opened the Timor Leste market for U.S. poultry and poultry products in April 2011. Almost all of the U.S. poultry is transshipped through Singapore, making it difficult to estimate total volumes, but FAS Jakarta expects that the combined value of U.S. poultry products imported into Timor Leste in 2011 and 2012 were upwards of \$10 million.

General Information:

In 2008 the Government of Timor Leste (GOTL) prohibited the imports of U.S. origin poultry products following the U.S. notification of low pathogenic avian influenza (AI) in the United States. The regulation banned U.S. poultry for two years. In August 2010, FAS Jakarta, Regional APHIS officials and Embassy Dili staff engaged with the GOTL in efforts to lift the ban. USDA demonstrated the United States' ability to rapidly detect, control and eradicate the uncommon occurrence of notifiable AI in commercial U.S. poultry. U.S. officials effectively conveyed that U.S. poultry meat and meat products are safe and pose no risk of transmitting AI to Timorese consumers. As a result of these efforts, in April 2011 the GOTL lifted the ban of U.S. poultry and trade began to flow. In September 2011 USAPEEC's regional office in Singapore contacted FAS Jakarta regarding an official introduction of U.S. poultry to Timor Leste. USAPEEC, with strong support from U.S. Ambassador Judith Fergin and Embassy Dili, hosted a gala "USA Poultry Reception" in Dili with an array of government officials as well as restaurant owners, chefs, and wholesalers.

To date no U.S. poultry is shipped directly to Timor Leste; the typical transshipment route is through Singapore, making it difficult to measure the total trade. However, in 2011 FAS Jakarta estimates that roughly \$6.0 million of U.S. poultry was imported into Timor Leste. Moreover, Post assesses that in 2012 Timor-Leste imported roughly \$4.0 million of U.S. poultry. Timorese importers tend to prefer chicken leg quarters, drumsticks and thighs.

On March 14, 2013, the President of Timor Leste, Taur Matan Ruak and First Lady Isabel Fereira Ruak hosted a luncheon at the Lahane Palace featuring traditional Timorese and American foods. Participants included the President of the National Parliament, senior Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries officials, Ambassador Fergin and other foreign ambassadors. To the delight of all in attendance, Ambassador Fergin and her husband, Greg Fergin, used the event as an opportunity to highlight traditional turkey and stuffing and even conducted a demonstration on how to prepare the dishes.



Timor Leste's President Taur Matan Ruak (blue apron), Timor Leste's First Lady Isabel Ferreira Ruak (green apron) and U.S. Ambassador Judith Fergin (USAPEEC apron, gray shirt) and her husband Greg Fergin (USAPEEC apron, pink shirt) in the event